

South Carolina RECYCLES

A Newsletter for Recycling Coordinators

S.C. leads the nation in recycling commitment

More than 30,000 South Carolinians pledged to recycle and buy recycled products this year, vaulting the state into the lead among 45 participating states for the most pledge cards collected, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control said December 12.

America Recycles Day, held annually on Nov. 15 to promote recycling and buying recycled products made from recycled materials, includes the challenge to residents to recycle and buy recycled.

Winning challenge cards for three state prizes were drawn Nov. 25. Dawn Helms of York County won the state's grand prize, \$1,000, sponsored by the S.C. Soft Drink Association. Ms. Helms filled out a challenge card from her local newspaper.

Sarah Hill of Columbia won the two-night stay at the Cypress Inn, a green bed-and-breakfast, in Conway. Ms. Hill, a teacher at Prosperity-Rikard Elementary School in Prosperity, filled her challenge card out at a summer workshop for teachers.

Courtney Adams of Rock Hill won a Trek bicycle, sponsored by Al Can Aluminum Corporation. The bicycle is made from recycled aluminum. Courtney is a student in a York County middle school.

In addition, three essay contests, sponsored by International Paper, were held to recognize a teacher, school and family who were doing their part to make "Every Day America Recycles Day." The 2003 winners include Cynde O'Rear from Hartness-Thornwell Elementary School in Clinton as Recycling Teacher of the Year, Horrell Hill Elementary School in Columbia as Recycling School of the Year and the Webster Family from Spartanburg as the All-American Recycling Family of the Year.

An ARD statewide steering committee made up of state and local governments, businesses, industries and nonprofit organizations held local events to make residents aware of the importance of protecting the environment.

Fourth and fifth grade students from across the state participated in three ARD Recycling Adventures that were held at Fort Jackson, Oconee County and York County. Students learned about recycling and how the recycling process works, participated in

recycling and litter pick-up relays, and recycling crafts.

Residents from across the state received America Recycles Day challenge cards from their local recycling centers and in their local newspapers.

The steering committee members include Chester County Recycling, Dorchester County Recycling, Fisher Communications, Fort Jackson, Horry County Solid Waste Authority, International Paper, Keep the Midlands Beautiful, Nucor Steel, Oconee County Recycling, Orangeburg County Soil and Water Conservation District, Palmetto Pride, Paper Stock Dealers/Sonoco, Richland County Soil and Water Conservation District, Rock Hill Clean & Green, S.C. Department of Commerce, S.C. Department of Education, S.C.

Department of Health and Environmental Control, S.C. Energy Office, S.C. Soft Drink Association, U.S. Postal Service and York County Collection and Recycling.

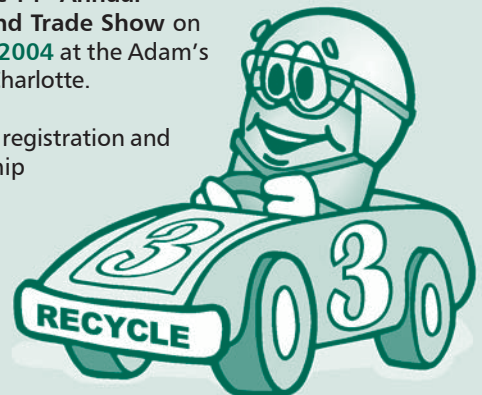


Holly Storey (left), America Recycles Day (ARD) in South Carolina chairperson and a national ARD board member, presents York County resident Dawn Helms with the state's grand prize, \$1,000 from the S.C. Soft Drink Association.

'Staying on Track - Rewving Up Recycling'

Join the **Carolina Recycling Association (CRA)** and its members at the **14th Annual Conference and Trade Show** on **March 22-25, 2004** at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Charlotte.

For conference registration and CRA membership information, visit www.cra-recycle.org or call 1-800-722-1994.



Electronics Recycling Contract Update

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (Office) and Bureau of Business Management – with the State Budget and Control Board's (SB&CB) Information Technology Management Office – continue to work to establish a statewide term contract for proper handling and disposal of electronics.

The contract will address packaging, loading, transporting, unloading, refurbishing, de-manufacturing, remarketing, recycling and disposing of surplus or unwanted electronic equipment. Eligible participants of the contract include state agencies, institutions, colleges and universities, cities, counties and school districts.

Although this is not a free service provided by the state, the state term contract is being solicited in an effort to receive the best price for the services rendered on this potentially hazardous material. By making the contract available to all state entities, it will increase the number of potential users.

The contract still needs to be approved by the SB&CB and awarded to a vendor.

For more information about this pending contract, please contact Pam Bergstrand at (803) 896-4236 or bergstpp@dhec.sc.gov.

'Full Cost Disclosure Report'

Stefanie Vandiver, with DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (Office), is the new contact person for the "Full Cost Disclosure Report" due annually on October 15. This report is required in order to be eligible for the Office's Tire, Used Oil and Solid Waste grants.

A task force has been created to review the reporting form and make comments and suggestions. If you wish to participate in this effort, please contact Stefanie at vandivsl@dhec.sc.gov or (803) 896-4229.

State government, universities develop S.C. Resource Conservation Challenge

The S.C. Resource Conservation Challenge (S.C. RCC) was developed to encourage all state agencies, colleges and universities, schools and school districts to conserve natural resources by reducing waste and conserving energy.

S.C. RCC's goal is to educate state agencies and other state-supported groups to save money, reduce environmental impacts and conserve valuable resources by adopting a well-rounded environmental management program. S.C. RCC is modeled after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Resource Conservation Challenge.

As a result of a one-day workshop held last spring, a State Agency Task Force was formed to guide these efforts and serve as a mentor for other entities. The task force included representatives from the State Ethics Commission, Piedmont Technical College, the S.C. Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, the S.C. Commission for the Blind, Greenville Technical College, the Legislative Audit Council, the State Accident Fund, Clemson University, the S.C. Department of Education, the S.C. Department of Social Services, Central Carolina Technical College, the Office of the Adjutant General for the S.C. National Guard, Shaw Air Force Base, the University of South Carolina (USC), Winthrop University and the USC School of the Environment. This group will identify barriers and opportunities, foster greater understanding of the need to reduce waste, recycle, buy recycled, and conserve energy and natural resources, mentor groups that are just beginning their waste reduction and recycling activities and develop policy recommendations for consideration by the Governor and General Assembly.

At its initial meeting last summer, the group decided to break into three groups to focus on the following objectives:

- **PROCUREMENT ISSUES** (especially recycling of computers and buying more recycled content products),
- **ENERGY CONSERVATION INITIATIVES**, and
- **DEVELOPMENT OF A WEB PAGE** to serve as a repository of work done by state government in conjunction with this conservation initiative.

For more information about these committees and the work of the task force, please contact Eric Melaro at (803) 896-4231 or melaroew@dhec.sc.gov.

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Compost Bins for Sale

Do your citizens call you asking "Where can I get a compost bin?" Are you planning a composting workshop and need compost bins? Would you rather have bins available any time of the year rather than at a one-day event? Not sure which bin is best for the price?

Instead of paying \$50-\$100 for a composting bin as advertised in national catalogs and on the Internet, recycling coordinators can purchase a complete set (bin with lid and base) at a reduced rate. This is a high-quality bin made from recycled plastic. It is cylinder style with a lid and base and is available for only \$25 to anyone in South Carolina. The bins are available at this reduced rate thanks to the efforts and contributions of many partners including the City of Rock Hill, Keep the Midlands Beautiful, Paper Stock Dealers/Sonoco of Columbia and DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling.

Orders are accepted in any quantity up to 200 bins at \$25 per unit (make checks payable to Keep The Midlands Beautiful). Interested persons should call Jane Hiller at (803) 779-0608 to arrange for pick-up or for more information.

DHEC's Chesley honored with Blue Granite Recognition

Richard Chesley, who developed and implemented the state's innovative "Recycle Guys" recycling promotional campaign, received the September Blue Granite Recognition, state Senator Phil Leventis announced in Columbia.

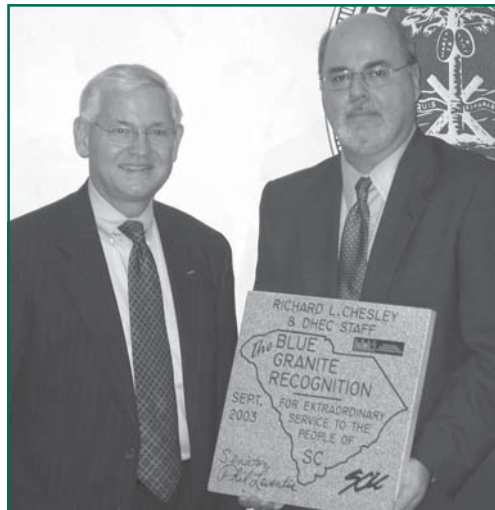
Chesley, section manager of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, had the vision to develop and implement a coordinated promotional campaign to appeal to children and adults which allowed state government to deliver a cohesive message on recycling.

"Richard Chesley created a program that has been recognized throughout the country for its creativity and effectiveness," Leventis said at an award presentation at DHEC headquarters in Columbia. "Many have come from far and wide – from state and local governments as well as private firms – to study the program and to replicate its approach."

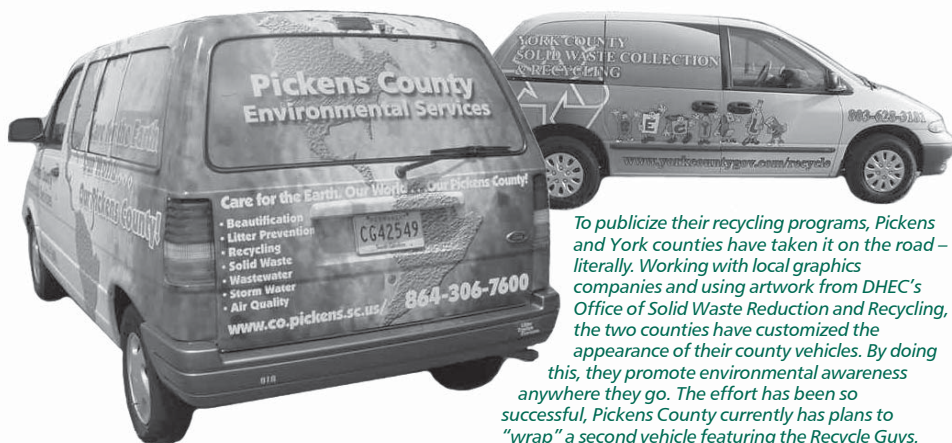
"His program, implemented by the DHEC staff, has helped all of us achieve a goal that reflects emerging South Carolina community values, conserving and recycling. He has truly made a difference in our state and throughout the country by helping us implement a concept that we all support and value – recycling and reuse of our precious resources." To date, eight other states and cities – including North Carolina, Pennsylvania and the City of Denver – have adopted the "Recycle Guys" campaign. At least three countries are considering whether to adopt it. The campaign has won national TELLY awards and local ADDY and Mercury awards for excellence.

"Innovative and creative people who are career employees of our state government can and do make a difference in our lives," Leventis said. "Richard Chesley is an example of how that happens in small but very important ways. His insight into helping people understand how to do what it is they really want to do has aided tens of thousands of us "do better things" for our community."

The Blue Granite Recognition is a monthly program to highlight excellence achieved by South Carolina state employees. The recognition, sponsored by the S.C. State Credit Union, is on-line at www.bluegraniterecognition.org. It is deemed a "recognition" because winners are not picked as a result of competitions. They are being recognized for the fine work they do as public employees.



Senator Phil Leventis (left) presents Richard Chesley with a Blue Granite Recognition for his exceptional service to the citizens of South Carolina.



To publicize their recycling programs, Pickens and York counties have taken it on the road – literally. Working with local graphics companies and using artwork from DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, the two counties have customized the appearance of their county vehicles. By doing this, they promote environmental awareness anywhere they go. The effort has been so successful, Pickens County currently has plans to "wrap" a second vehicle featuring the Recycle Guys.

EDITOR'S FOCUS

Last October, more than 60 S.C. recycling coordinators (RCs) gathered in Rock Hill to attend a workshop sponsored by York County and DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling.

Attendees listened to speakers cover topics from Brownfields to case studies in school recycling. Tours were offered to view the York County MRF as well as the City of Rock Hill's Composting Facility. And the activities/entertainment and meal at the Museum of York County was one attendees will not forget.

One of the most talked about parts of the workshop was the "Meet, Greet and Be Unique" session. Attendees were asked to fill out a brief questionnaire that was then shared with someone else and read aloud. It allowed for conversation and idea sharing during this hour-long session.

The Office is looking to make the next workshop even better. One idea is to let recycling coordinators serve as presenters. Who better to speak to you all than yourselves? And because the "Meet and Greet" session started some great networking, it will be expanded for additional discussion.

In order to make the workshop better, we will be asking RCs to serve on a planning committee. Preliminary discussions will begin in the spring after the Carolina Recycling Association conference in March.

Finally, the Office is looking for a local government or college/university to host the workshop in the fall of 2004. Generally, the host is asked to secure a meeting room for about 75 people for two and a half days and provide one meal (breakfast or lunch). If you are interested in serving on the planning committee or acting as a host county, contact Sharon Thompson at (803) 896-4227 or thompsonsr@dhec.sc.gov.

Remember, the RC workshop is held annually to bring together RCs from across the state to discuss recycling issues. Plan on being a part of the next workshop.

Winthrop excels at recycling, composting

Winthrop University has developed a well-rounded campus recycling program. The university, located in Rock Hill, offers recycling drop-off sites and pick-up services for all students and faculty. The program collects newspaper, office paper, magazines and corrugated cardboard and are collected from campus buildings on a regular schedule.

Students and faculty bring recyclables to drop-off locations on each floor of residence halls and classroom buildings and place them in labeled roll carts. A recycling crew collects these carts and brings them to dumpsters that are emptied weekly by the City of Rock Hill. Shredded paper is collected from the central administration building on an as-needed basis. The university also encourages reusing items. Even unwanted surplus property finds a new home. Donations to charitable organizations are made when appropriate.

Winthrop University implemented a move-out program in December of 2001 that involves the collection of unwanted or unneeded clothes, food and school supplies at the end of the fall and spring semesters. Items collected are donated to local charities. Students have been very supportive and the program participation continues to increase.

Another new program that involves students in the residence halls is the collection of single-serve drink containers. This effort was started as a pilot project in two residence halls last spring and will be implemented throughout campus in the near future. Students also have the option of enrolling in a class that was first offered

last semester – “Recycling in the Residence Halls” – allowing students to learn about the recycling services provided by Winthrop University.

A composting program was started using an Earth Tub purchased with grant funds from DHEC’s Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (Office). The Earth Tub is designed specifically for on-site composting of food wastes. The tub is a fully enclosed composting vessel and is ideal for schools, universities, restaurants, hospitals and supermarkets.

The ingredients for the compost come from several areas on campus. Food is collected in the main dining hall, wood chips come from fallen branches and leaves are collected from campus lawns. Even unwanted plants from the campus greenhouse complex are used in the Earth Tub. A chipper/shredder donated by the Office is used to reduce large food scraps to a usable size for composting. The finished compost is used by Winthrop’s greenhouse complex.

The greatest challenge facing the recycling program is making routine collections in a timely manner. The recycling crew also serves as the moving crew and leaves little time between duties.

The most rewarding part of the job is to see the dedication of the students, faculty and staff to recycling. It is through their efforts that the Winthrop University recycling program is a success.

This article is contributed by Chris Hodgdon, Materials Services Manager & Recycling Coordinator, Winthrop University, (803) 517-7102, hodgdonc@cetlink.net.

RC Calendar

JANUARY 5 – “Action for a cleaner tomorrow” (Action) Training Workshop, Wateree Elementary School

JANUARY 14 – Action Training Workshop, Francis Marion University

JANUARY 15 – Energy 2 Learn (E2L) E2IQ Presentation, Beech Springs Intermediate School

JANUARY 21 – Action Training Workshop, S.C. State University

JANUARY 27 – E2L E2IQ Presentation, Blythewood Middle School

FEBRUARY 10 – Recycling Grants Workshop/ Recycle Guys Awards Program, Seawell’s, Columbia

FEBRUARY 10 – E2L E2IQ Presentation, Latta Middle School

FEBRUARY 19 – Action Training Workshop, College of Charleston

FEBRUARY 25 – E2L E2IQ Presentation, Boiling Springs Middle School

MARCH 9 – E2L E2IQ Presentation, Boiling Springs Middle School

MARCH 15 – E2L E2IQ Presentation, Boiling Springs Middle School

MARCH 22 - 25 – Carolina Recycling Association Annual Conference and Trade Show, Charlotte

MARCH 27 – Kids Day Columbia, Finlay Park, Columbia

MARCH 31 – E2L E2IQ Presentation, Boiling Springs Middle School

For the most current list of events, visit www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/calendar.html.

NOTE: Recycling coordinators are encouraged to attend “Action” Training Workshops that take place in their county. It is a good opportunity to network with teachers and students in your community. To learn more, call Angie Perry at 1-800-326-2630.



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